

S-E-C-R-E-T

5 October 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. African Bureau Situation: Acts of violence and harrassment against Ibos by undisciplined soldiers and groups of ruffians continued in Northern Nigeria. On 16 September army and police patrols were summoned to the FBIS non-Staff housing area when a group of armed soldiers came looking for Ibos. The African staff was reassured by this prompt action and other steps by the bureau chief for their protection, but nevertheless seven Ibo employees requested and were granted leave so they could return to their homes in the Eastern Region. A combination of heavy rains and the flight of Ibo technicians from the North caused severe outages of the bureau's communications to Lagos.

By the end of September reports of further violence and the breakdown of essential services were being received through the State Department, and a dusk to dawn curfew was imposed in Kaduna. The East Coast Bureau and the BBC began backstopping coverage of Lagos international broadcasts on 30 September, and coverage of West Africa from AFP and Reuters was stepped up. Investigation of possible fallback sites continued.

The Agency Director has approved the Intelligence Star for [redacted] Chief of the African Bureau, for outstanding service under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions during the January 1966 coup in Nigeria. This is understood to be the first award of the Intelligence Star in the DD/I area. Former African Bureau Senior Editor [redacted] and Engineer [redacted] have been awarded Certificates of Merit with Distinction for their service in Kaduna. (SECRET)

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2. Saigon Situation: The increasing tempo of the constituent assembly election campaign during late August was matched by an escalation of terrorism and antielection propaganda by the Viet Cong. Following reports that assassination teams had been offered bounties to kill high-ranking American officials, the guards for these officials were doubled. From 10 to 12 September, the period of the elections, a curfew was imposed on all Americans, except for performance of official duties, and most recreational and shopping facilities were closed. Requirements on the bureau for

Group 1

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Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

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election comment from the Liberation and Hanoi radios, and other special requirements levied by offices of the U.S. Mission, increased as official interest in the elections grew. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Mediterranean Bureau Developments: The Embassy in Nicosia received word from Washington that a Greek Cypriot member of the GOC delegation in the United States had expressed concern over an FBIS item quoting a Voice of Cyprus report on the Greek-Turkish dialog. The GOC delegate felt that reports from the Nicosia radio, not pro-Turkish radios, should be published, and that anti-Greek items of this type should not be circulated to foreign embassies in Washington. Since the matter may be reported back to the Cyprus Government, the acting DCM talked with the Director of Public Information and explained FBIS policy.

The bureau's evacuation plan is being revised on the basis of information received by the Embassy during talks with the commander of the Canadian U.N. contingent based in the Kyrenia area. The Cyprus National Guard unit stationed in the bureau's antenna field has begun construction of reinforced concrete buildings which are more extensive than the barracks originally agreed to. The problem is being raised with the Kyrenia District Officer.

In early September the bureau assumed full coverage of Cairo domestic broadcasts and MENA transmissions in Arabic. (SECRET)

4. Bangkok Project: In mid-September, bureau chief [] and Hokkaido engineer [] began a site and facilities survey in the Bangkok area to locate a suitable building for the projected Bangkok Bureau. On 23 September Headquarters authorized rental of a large house in the Bangkok suburbs. Preliminary inquiries indicated that acceptable administrative, fiscal, and communications support would be available from the Embassy and U.S. military components, but the problem of getting U.S. Embassy and Thai Government approval to the transfer of third country nationals from Saigon to Bangkok must still be resolved.

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5. Caribbean Bureau Progress: Bureau Chief [] and multilingual monitors [] reported for duty 19 September, late August, and early September respectively. Recruiting which began earlier this year in Puerto Rico and through Headquarters has yielded several promising Spanish monolingual candidates. The bureau initiated coverage of Brazilian voicecasts in early September, with the West Coast Bureau covering late evening broadcasts. Installation

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of equipment in the monitor trainee van, which provides positions for a cruising monitor and three monitor trainees, was completed 31 August. The construction contract was about 9 percent complete on 31 August.
(UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Hokkaido Bureau Relocation: The formal land transfer documents for the projected new Hokkaido Bureau operations site at Chitose III have been received from the Sapporo Defense Facilities Administrative Bureau, and the antenna layout and floor plans for the new establishment have been approved. Preliminary work for an Air Force Project, which will eventually occupy the present Chitose I site, will be started prior to the bureau's move, but Air Force representatives have agreed not to do any work which might interfere with FBIS operations. (SECRET)

7. Special Services: The Warsaw Pact joint maneuvers at Vltava, Czechoslovakia, scheduled for the latter part of September, were the focus of considerable consumer attention. [redacted] television coverage, plus the continuing interest of OCH Graphics Register, prompted a request to [redacted] to obtain videotapes of any material broadcast by the East Europe Intervention network. Also, the London, German, and Austrian bureaus were asked to file material on the maneuvers to the Collection Branch, USAREUR Intelligence Division. An Agency component prepared a report on world publicity thus far on Bertrand Russell's proposed U.S. war crimes trial, to be held in Paris at the end of the year. A considerable portion of the material was based on FBIS items flagged to Liaison by the field bureaus and forwarded to the consumer. The project continues.

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Bureaus filled several requests for tapes: The West Coast Bureau recorded several samples of VOA Mandarin broadcasts for use in a study by an Agency component of the type of material being broadcast into Mainland China. Key West sent to Graphics Register Havana videotapes of appearances by two U.S. folklore specialists: singer Barbara Dane and writer Irving Silber. The East Coast Bureau supplied a tape of a Raul Roa statement on the Cuban refugee question. (SECRET)

8. Lateral Services: On 6 August, the London and Mediterranean bureaus began filing through VOA Munich to the expanded VOA Arabic program center in Rhodes all material from Arab and Israeli transmitters and clandestines beamed to Arab countries. Following a visit by the Chief of the Key West Bureau to the Coast Guard office in Miami, the requirement by the Coast Guard, which also services the State Department Coordinator

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of Cuban Affairs, was modified to include only material on Cuba, Brazil, Mexico, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. (CONFIDENTIAL)

9. Uses of FBIS Materials: During the month, embassy and consulate cables from Nigeria made frequent reference to FBIS material, with special attention to speeches by Eastern Military Governor Ojukwu on 28 August and 12 September. In South Vietnam, the overriding interest of U.S. Mission offices in the local elections was reflected in requirements on the Bureau for related comment by the Liberation and Hanoi radios. A lengthy briefing paper on Viet Cong reaction to the election, issued by the Embassy political section, drew extensively from the material. The State Department sent a priority cable to the U.S. Embassy, Bangkok, containing the text of an FBIS-monitored AFP report of 9 September that Prince Sihanouk was ready to initiate a reconciliation between Cambodia and Thailand.

The Chief, Liaison and Requirements Staff, was recently told by the chief of the White House Situation Room that he frequently sends up for the President's attention items directly out of the FBIS Daily Reports.

Eleven percent of the items appearing in the OCI Digest during August were based wholly or in part on FBIS-monitored items. (CONFIDENTIAL)

10. Research and Analysis Services: Continuing services related to Vietnam included supplying State and Agency offices with information on Hanoi and Liberation Radio comment on the South Vietnamese elections, Soviet references to Soviet missiles in the DRV, and Peking comment on the antiwar movement in the United States over the last few months.

The Chinese "cultural revolution" and further deterioration of Sino-Soviet relations prompted a State Department request for the broadcast pattern of the Mao directive and comments on the directive since it was issued. ORR was supplied with Survey and Trends articles and material from the War Themes file in response to a request for Soviet and CPR references to the validity of the Sino-Soviet treaty in the past two years. In connection with the recent Soviet Foreign Ministry protest to the CPR against abuses of Soviet embassy personnel in Peking, OCI was given information on the last Soviet protests to China, in March 1965 and September 1963. Examples of Peking usage of the phrase "blood debts must be paid in blood" were assembled from the War Themes file for the State Department.

Other services included locating for the Arms Control Disarmament Agency a Khrushchev statement in Finland in June 1957 regarding Arctic

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zone inspection, and an article in Red Star from the Indian publication Mainstream. RPD was able to confirm for NPIC that Radio Moscow had reported an earthquake in Irkutsk in late August. Agency requesters were assisted in obtaining the date of a Kim Il-song speech on revisionism, a Bertrand Russell charge concerning American soldiers' "crimes" against pregnant South Vietnamese women, a list of delegates to the July 1966 international physics colloquium in Peking, and confirmation that Soviet media did not carry any congratulatory messages from the Cubans to the Soviet leaders on their reappointment. (SECRET)

11. Supplements and Reports: Premier Fidel Castro's 29 August address at the Cuban labor congress was published as a Daily Report supplement on 31 August. An 8 August AKAHATA article on communist united action on Vietnam was printed as a Daily Report supplement on 25 August. At White House request, a review of worldwide reaction to the South Vietnamese elections was prepared by Editorial Division in conjunction with RPD and distributed to consumers of the Wire and the FBIS Bulletin on 14 September.

A review of Chinese Communist radio and press propaganda on the Red Guard movement from Peking's first references to it on 18 August through the rally at the end of the month, when Chou En-lai and Lin Piao discussed its role and future, was issued as a supplement to the 1 September issue of the RPD Survey. Background was also provided on the situation in Heilungkiang Province, where Red Guard units took part in an attack on the provincial party committee.

A Radio Propaganda Report on CEMA developments updated a 1 October 1963 report on CEMA, with tables showing the announced attendance of CEMA member states and observers at meetings of the organization from August 1963 through June 1966. (CONFIDENTIAL)

12. Briefings and Visits: visited Headquarters for discussions on 2 and 14 September respectively. Milan Kravanja, Bureau of Foreign Fisheries, Department of Interior, an enthusiastic consumer of Shipping Briefs and Abstracts, was given a tour of Headquarters. He recently returned from negotiations in Moscow with the USSR on fisheries.

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Officers of the 513th Intelligence Corps Groups visited the German Bureau's Camp King television monitoring facility on 13 September to observe monitoring of a military parade in East Berlin marking the fifth anniversary of the Berlin Wall. Mr. Carl Davis, chief of USIA's Miami office, was briefed at the Key West Bureau 26 August. He described

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the bureau's file as invaluable to his office. Maj. Gen. Bruce E. Kendall, deputy commanding general, USARYIS, and Mr. James C. Miller, the new VOA manager in Okinawa, visited the Okinawa Bureau for briefings in August.
(SECRET)

13. Hurricane Inez: Hurricane Inez, which wreaked havoc in the Leeward Islands of the West Indies in the last week of September, caused Caribbean Bureau construction and operations to halt for one day on 28-29 September as it bore down on Puerto Rico. However, the main force of the storm passed just south of the island and there was no damage at the bureau site.

Inez approached Florida on 1 October, causing the Key West Bureau to move its equipment to safe storage and suspend operations for 40 hours on 2-3 October. No damage was incurred, and the bureau had been back in operation for 25 hours when Inez unexpectedly reversed course and veered back to the Keys with 100-mph winds. The bureau again evacuated, suspending operations at 1700 GMT on 4 October. The bureau chief reported on the afternoon of 5 October that the bureau had weathered the hurricane's second pass with no damage except the loss of a secondary antenna. However, in view of reports that Inez was standing off-shore in the Gulf of Mexico and building up wind velocity, movement of equipment back to the operations building was delayed pending the storm's next move. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

14. Tagalog Monitoring: During preparations for Philippines President Marcos' visit to Washington in mid-September, the State Department made high-level representations to FBIS for coverage of Peking broadcasts in Tagalog. At Headquarters request, the Okinawa Bureau quickly recruited a contract monitor and began wirefiling program summaries on 3 September. Later the bureau began filing selected items. (CONFIDENTIAL)

15. Trans-Pacific Communications: The Saigon and Tokyo Alfa circuits, which have been on cable west of Honolulu since last January, have now been placed in cable channels between Honolulu and Washington. This eliminates a radio link of more than 5,000 miles which was a major source of communications trouble. (CONFIDENTIAL)

16. AUTODIN Communications: The tie-line between FBIS Headquarters and the new AUTODIN relay at Ft. Detrick, Md. was installed 15 September and is scheduled to be activated in October. Western Union will install AUTODIN equipment in the Headquarters communications center in the near future. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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17. Headquarters Communications Outage: On 14 September a number of circuits, including Wire Service circuits, were put out of service by heavy rains which flooded underground telephone company cables in Rosslyn. Some common user circuits were rerouted and all allocated and Wire Service circuits were restored about 12 hours after failure. (CONFIDENTIAL)

18. Broadcasting Developments: Moscow radio has expanded its service in Vietnamese 67 percent by adding four daily 30-minute broadcasts. After sampling showed that the new programs contained repeat material they were placed in backstop coverage status. Moscow also announced a 14-hour-per-week increase in its Mandarin broadcasts to China but the new programs have not been heard so far. On 1 September Moscow radio introduced Punjabi broadcasts in its service to India and Pakistan, which now totals 95 hours a week in seven languages. The Okinawa Bureau is covering the first Punjabi program and checking content of the second from recordings made at the Mediterranean Bureau. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

ADMINISTRATION

19. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated: (CONFIDENTIAL)

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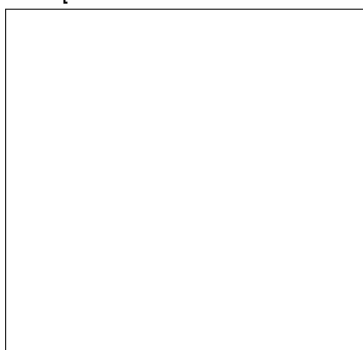
EDITORIAL

1. Support for Wire Service: Field editors are again urged to draw on their familiarity with events occurring in their coverage areas and their relationship with monitors to call attention, through separate FYI's or editor's note in the copy, to significant elements in items whose importance may not be readily apparent to hard-pressed Wire editors or which are buried in otherwise routine copy. Bureaus are encouraged to make use of the FBIS Bulletin to apprise field editors and monitors of important developments in areas outside their coverage responsibilities and regarding which the initial reaction or absence of reaction of sources within their coverage areas would be significant and should be reported in FYI's.

2. Editorial Handbook: The revised edition of the FBIS Editorial Handbook was returned from the printers and pouched to all bureaus on 2 September.

PERSONNEL

3. New Employees



Assignment

Editor, ME/AFR/WE/LA Branch, Editorial Div.
Intel Analyst, Research Branch, Radio Prop. Div.
Secretary, Administrative Staff
Librarian, Reference Library, Editorial Div.
Typist, Publications Branch, Editorial Div.

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4. Reassignments



From

To

Asst. Chief Engineer Mediterranean Bureau	Engineer Engineering Staff
Chief Saigon Bureau	Intel. Officer Executive Staff
Chief Key West Bureau	Operations Officer Okinawa Bureau
Teletypist East Coast Bureau	Teletypist Editorial Division

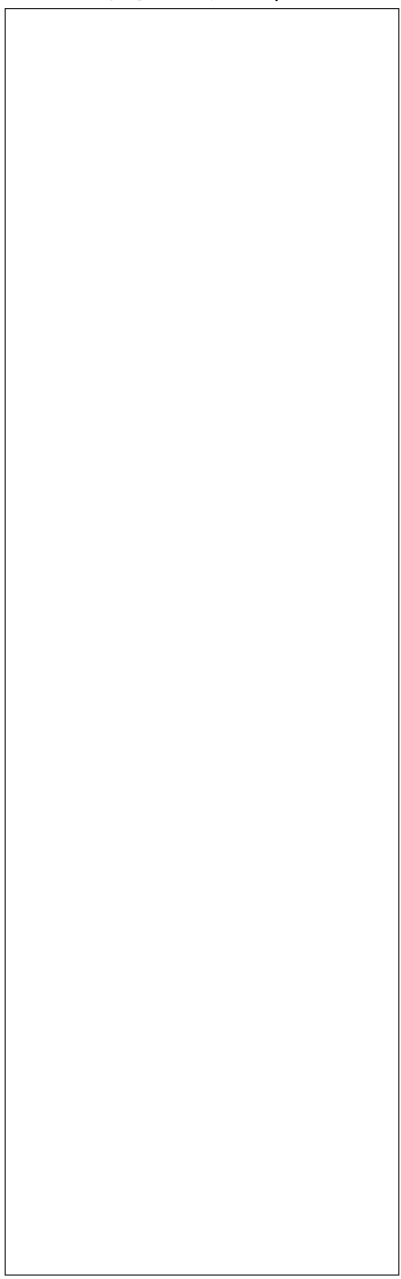
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4. Reassignments (Cont'd) From

To

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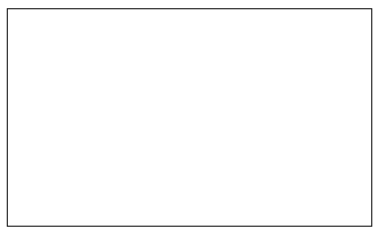


Administrative Officer Tokyo Bureau	Administrative Officer London Bureau
Monitor East Coast Bureau	Monitor Caribbean Bureau
Editor Editorial Division	Editor African Bureau
Deputy Chief East Coast Bureau	Deputy Chief Mediterranean Bureau
Senior Editor London Bureau	Senior Editor, Wire Service Branch, Editorial Division
Editor London Bureau	Editor West Coast Bureau
Chief Editor Okinawa Bureau	Chief, Liaison & Requirements Staff
Editor West Coast Bureau	Editor Okinawa Bureau
Chief Mediterranean Bureau	Chief, Executive Staff
Chief Editor Mediterranean Bureau	Chief, USSR & EE Branch, Editorial Division
Senior Editor Tokyo Bureau	Section Chief, FE Branch, Editorial Division
Librarian Editorial Division	Editor, FE Branch, Editorial Division

5. Separations

From

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Teletypist, Editorial Division

Teletypist, Editorial Division

Secretary, Executive Staff

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6. TDY in Headquarters

[redacted] - London Bureau, orientation while on home leave 50X1

[redacted] - Orientation enroute from Tokyo Bureau to
London Bureau 50X1

[redacted] - Orientation enroute from London Bureau to
Okinawa Bureau 50X1

[redacted] - Orientation enroute from Okinawa Bureau to
London Bureau 50X1

7. Award

[redacted] - German Bureau - Certificate of Merit 50X1
50X1

[redacted]
Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service